**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Lynn Ledbetter, Lyn Litchke, Vince Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Whitten Smart (special assistant to the vice president for Information Technology), Stephanie Towery (Library), Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Ruth Taylor.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner

**Update on New Learning Management System (Canvas)**

Whitten Smart, special assistant to the vice president for Information Technology, provided senators an update on the new [Canvas Learning Management System](https://doit.txstate.edu/services/canvas) (LMS). Now that the LMS has been purchased the Division of Information Technology is working with Canvas on the course migration tool. He stated that there may be some migration problems with certain tools within TRACS, however, most of the same tools currently used in TRACS will migrate to Canvas. He said that while the new features in Canvas are great, there are some items faculty are used to in TRACS that may not be the same. The team is also creating a tool to inform faculty about the details of the migration process. Current courses in TRACs will be migrated on demand – there will not be a total migration of everything from TRACs to Canvas. Faculty will need to decide which course(s) to migrate. The gradebook will not migrate to Canvas and faculty will need to export grades as a Microsoft Excel file if they want to maintain them. Migration to the new LMS will take one and a half years. Project sites will be a part of Canvas.

Support will initially be provided by Canvas and then will transfer to the IT Assistance Center (ITAC). Training for faculty will be online and face-to-face. Departments can sign up for training through ITAC. Anyone can migrate and create courses as soon as the Canvas LMS is available in mid-November. There will be a link on the university homepage and login to Canvas will use two step authentication. Starting in fall 2021 ITAC will no longer offer the TRACS LMS for course use. There will be numerous communications from ITAC during this process. Send any questions to [lmstransition@txstate.edu](mailto:lmstransition@txstate.edu)

**Discussion of University Plan Mid-Cycle Review**

Senators discussed the [university plan mid-cycle review](https://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/jcr:d2e5d2ac-0834-4446-bcb1-0a4a98761e82/DRAFT%202017-2023%20Mid%20Cycle%20Plan%20First%20Round%20Revisions%20tracked.pdf) sent from the provost on September 5. Several questions senators attempted to answer were:

* What changes, if any, should be made to the draft revised initiatives presented?
* What changes, if any, should be made to the draft revised key performance indicators (KPIs) presented? Are they measurable?

Senators discussed section 1.13 - Enhance affordability, accessibility, and student success through

management of the cost of textbooks and other learning materials, concerning Open Education Resources (OERs) and the reasoning behind the changes in the plan. Senators also discussed the deletion of section 4.7 - Continue to improve strategies and models for governance and planning that are transparent and inclusive. The senate chair will contact the administration as to the reasons why section 4.7 was deleted. Senators also discussed why environmental sustainability was not included in section 4.0 - Provide the necessary services, resources, and infrastructure to support the university’s strategic direction and will request that sustainability be added to the plan. Senators crafted a response and will forward it to the administration via the survey. Senators also discussed the inclusion of mental health resources in the plan that are not explicitly addressed. The senate chair will ask the administration to include this issue in the plan.

**Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships**

Senators discussed revisions to [AA/PPS 04.01.32 Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-32.html) and faculty comments gathered thus far. The policy has been forwarded by the senate to the [Academic Freedom](https://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/committees/freedom.html) and [Academic Governance](https://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/committees/governance.html) committees for additional review. Faculty in attendance were reminded they may request to submit comments by contacting their college dean. Two senators volunteered to complete an additional review of the policy before sending forward to the administration.

**October 23 Senate Liaison Meeting Agenda**

Senators decided to table the discussion of the upcoming [Senate Liaison](https://www.txstate.edu/facultysenate/contact/senate-liaisons.html) meeting agenda until the October 2 senate meeting. Senators were asked to think of agenda items for the liaison meeting and bring them to the next senate meeting.

**Council on Inclusive Excellence Update**

Senator Martin presented information on the recent activities of the [Council on Inclusive Excellence](https://www.txstate.edu/roster/president/councils/Council-on-Inclusive-Excellence---VPUAdm--.html). Laurie Clouse, chief of police, University Police Department (UPD), and a member of the committee answered several questions concerning the recent [Clery Act report](https://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/jcr:555b1e0e-c3ab-4f6d-9d3f-ac15df5fbfcf/TXST%202019-2020%20Annual%20Security%20&%20Fire%20Safety%20Report.pdf) and an incident on campus earlier this year that resulted in several students being arrested. Because of the incident UPD officers will go through further training. Council members also discussed a recent incident from a social media account that caused concern on campus. Senators suggested that we invite council chair Ms. Ameerah McBride, chief diversity officer, and director, Equity and Inclusion, to speak with the senate. Senators also suggested we invite Scott Bowman, special assistant to the provost for Inclusion and Diversity and Corey Benbow, president, Student Government. The senate chair will contact all three individuals to schedule them for future senate meetings.

**Discussion of Inclusion and Diversity Plan to Build Capacity**

Senators discussed several items in the university’s Inclusion and Diversity Plan to Build Capacity that may need to be reworded and/or addressed. Senators asked questions concerning item 2.3.3 - D&I training for search committees, and 2.4.4 - Ensure Chartwells staff know the ingredients of food served by Chartwells. The senate chair will put this issue back on the agenda for a future meeting and asked senators to bring any other concerns to her.

Senators also discussed the concept and authority of the Chief Diversity Officer position. The senate chair will summarize comments and share with the administration.

**Issues/Concerns From Faculty**

Senators discussed a concern that practice faculty ranks may no longer be able to act as a principle investigator (PI) for the Research Enhancement Program (REP) after this year. The senate chair will contact Mike Blanda, assistant vice president for Research and Federal Relations, to discuss the issue and if necessary invite him to the senate for a discussion.

**Approval of Minutes**

September 18 minutes were approved by senators with minor changes.

**Announcements**

October 2, 2019 senate meeting agenda items:

* Corey Benbow, president, Student Government, will make a presentation. Senators should review the student government plan before the meeting.
* Finalize October Faculty Senate bulletin.
* Discussion of [AA/PPS 04.01.32 Management and Funding of Faculty Fellowships](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-01-32.html) fellowship policy.
* Plan the agenda for the Faculty Senate Liaison meeting.
* Discussion of [AA/PPS No. 04.02.32 Faculty Grievance policy](https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/04-02-32.html).

October 9, 2019 senate meeting

* The senate chair and vice chair will be unavailable, the senate secretary will facilitate the meeting.
* Presidential Academic Advisory Group.
* Presentation of the Piper Professor Committee report.

October 16 senate meeting

* The senate chair will be unavailable, the senate vice chair will facilitate the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan